

**JUAN CISCOMANI**

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0306**

**COMMITTEES:**

**APPROPRIATIONS**

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION  
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20529

Secretary Mayorkas:

I write regarding an urgent matter occurring along our southwest border. As you know, our U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents and officers are overwhelmed, and our border communities are overrun. For months now, the quantity of migrants crossing the border has steadily increased to record breaking numbers. One of your predecessors, Jeh Johnson, stated that 1,000 migrants a day constituted a crisis. We have now seen days with more than 10,000 migrants encountered. Today, there have been over 200 migrants released onto the streets of southeastern Arizona border communities in the Tucson Sector alone.

Earlier this year, Tucson Sector Chief testified in Congress that he initially called it a crisis, but now did not have the correct adjective to describe what is going on our southern border. Reports have stated that this is occurring because both CBP and our partners participating in the Shelter and Services Program are at capacity. There are also other reports that migrants are being bussed to some of our most rural communities in Cochise County only to be processed then released. These areas are not equipped to deal with this influx. Our local border communities should not be forced to bear the burden of this administration's failed border policies. I have personally heard from local elected officials of both parties regarding their concern over these actions and the implications on their communities. This is not a partisan issue – you must stop politicizing our border and start prioritizing it.

I strongly urge you to address the border crisis by securing our southern border, enforcing our nation's existing laws, and using the tools available to you including by reinstating Third Country Asylum Cooperative Agreements and the Migrant Protection Protocols. Our CBP officers and agents on the front lines are doing all they are allowed to under your direction, but they are overburdened and under supported. You must do what's necessary to stop the flow, and the current status-quo cannot stand. I invite you to join me in Cochise County and see for

yourself the crisis that is unfolding day after day, the burden on the communities I represent, and the personnel tasked to protect our border.

I respectfully request that you respond to the following questions no later than September 20<sup>th</sup>:

1. Are Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) detention centers at capacity? If so, when did they reach capacity?
2. If these numbers continue or increase, what plan is in place to process the number of migrants?
3. What are you doing to increase capacity either in permanent or temporary facilities both for CBP and ICE?
4. How many migrants have been released onto the streets this fiscal year? Please provide a breakdown by sector and the number of migrants released to community partners vs. 'safe street releases'.
5. What notification and warning is given to local communities before migrants are released in the streets?
6. Please outline the process used to vet migrants before they are released into our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Ciscomani', with a stylized, flowing script.

Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress